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March 27th.

MR. CASSIN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Twenty-four members present.

The following gentlemen were elected members:

J. A. Heintzelman, Amos R. Little, James C. Parrish, Clemmons Hunt, R. Shelton Mackenzie, Charles B. Durbin, John Turner, Samuel E. Slaymaker, William E. Kehmle, Alfonso de Figner, Thomas C. Stellwagen, M. D., and Charles S. Westcott.

The following were elected correspondents:

Robert Gray and William Sinclair, of Glasgow, Scotland; D. C. Collier, of Central City, Colorado; and Rev. Joseph Blake.

On report of the respective committees, the following papers were ordered to be published:

#### A STUDY OF THE ICTERIDAE.

BY JOHN CASSIN.

##### 1. Sub-family AGELAIINAE.

##### 1. Genus *AGELAIUS*, Vieillot.

(Genus *Agelaius*, Vieill., Analyse, p. 33, 1816.)

##### 1. *Agelaius*.

##### 1. *AGELAIUS PHŒNICEUS* (Linnæus.)

*Oriolus phœniceus*, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 161, (1766.)

*Sturnus prædatorius*, Wils. Am. Orn. iv. p. 30, (1811.)

Wilson Am. Orn. pl. 30. Aud B. of Am. pl. 67, Oct. ed. iv. pl. 216.

An abundant and well known species, diffused throughout the whole of temperate North America. It is nearly related to the two species immediately succeeding, from which it is, however, generally not difficult to distinguish, though all of them much resemble each other when in young plumage. Numerous specimens are in the Acad. Museum, and in the Museum Smithsonian Institution, Washington. Specimens from Yucatan, in the Smithsonian Museum, have the bill more slender and present some other slight differences, and may be distinct or referable to *A. assimilis*, Gundlach.

##### 2. *AGELAIUS TRICOLOR*, Audubon.

*Agelaius tricolor*, Aud. Orn. Biog. v. p. 1. (1839.)

Aud. B. of Am. pl. 388, Oct. ed. iv. pl. 214.

Numerous specimens in the Academy Museum, and in that of the Smithsonian Institution. Resembles the preceding but is quite distinct specifically, and can be distinguished readily by the different red of the shoulders, less rounded tail and more slender bill, in the present bird. Abundant in the western countries of North America.

##### 3. *AGELAIUS ASSIMILIS*, Gundlach.

*Agelaius assimilis*. "Gundl. MSS.," Lembeye, Aves Cuba, p. 64, (1850.)

*Agelaius assimilis*, Gundl. Cabanis Jour. 1856, p. 12.

Lembeye, Aves Cuba, pl. ix. fig. 3.

Restricted apparently to the Island of Cuba, but in the adult male much resembling specimens from Yucatan. In this species the female is totally black in which respect it differs from the two preceding species, though the adult male is very similar to that of *A. phœniceus*. The young male resembles the female, but is usually recognizable by the presence of more or less of the scarlet of the shoulders.

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Specimens in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, and in the collection of Mr. Lawrence of New York. The females and young males are uniform brownish black, not in the smallest degree mottled, as in the two preceding species and in *A. Gubernator*.

4. *AGELAIUS GUBERNATOR*, (Wagler.)

*Psarocolius gubernator*, Wagl. Isis, 1832, p. 281.

Aud. B. of Am. pl. 420, Oct. ed. iv. pl. 215.

Easily distinguished when adult from either of the preceding by its shoulders being uniform rich crimson, without paler margin, though the young much resemble each other. Abundant in western North America.

Numerous specimens in Academy Museum and Museum Smithsonian Institution.

5. *AGELAIUS HUMERALIS*, (Vigors.)

*Leistes humeralis*, Vig. Zool. Jour. iii. p. 442, (1827.)

La Sagra Cuba, Ois. pl. 5.

Now well known as a bird of the Island of Cuba. This species is smaller than either of the preceding, and not quite strictly of the same subgroup, having the tail proportionally rather longer and general form apparently more slender. Common in Cuba. Numerous specimens in the Academy Museum, and Museum Smithsonian Institution, and in Mr. Lawrence's collection.

In this species the females and young males are stated to be black, (as in *A. assimilis*, also of Cuba.) A specimen in Mr. Lawrence's collection, which I regard as a young male of this species, is clear uniform black, the rufous of the shoulder beginning to appear.

2. *Xanthocephalus*.

(Genus *Xanthocephalus*, Bonap. Cons. Av. 1. p. 431.)

6. *AGELAIUS XANTHOCEPHALUS*, (Bonaparte.)

*Icterus xanthocephalus*, Bonap. Jour. Acad. Philad'a. v. p. 223, (1827.)

*Agelaius longipes*, Swains. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 436.

*Psarocolius perspicillatus*, Wagler, Isis, 1829, p. 753.

*Icterus icterocephalus*, Bonap. Am. Orn. 1. p. 27, (supposed by Bonaparte, to be *Oriolus icterocephalus*, Linn.)

*Icterus frenatus*, Licht., Isis, 1843, p. 69.

Bonap. Am. Orn. 1. pl. 3. Aud. B. of Am. pl. 388, Oct. ed. iv. pl. 213.

In my judgment this species is properly to be arranged as an *Agelaius*. It is an abundant bird of the central and western countries of North America, and specimens are in all collections in this country, though formerly scarce and highly valued. Straggling specimens, generally of young birds, have occasionally been obtained in the States on the Atlantic, several having occurred, within my knowledge, in the vicinity of Philadelphia.

This species does not resemble any other sufficiently intimately to render close comparison necessary, and can usually be recognized quite readily. It is handsomely figured by Audubon, and by Bonaparte as above.

3. *Aphobus*.

(Genus *Aphobus*, Cabanis, Mus. Hein, i. p. 194.)

7. *AGELAIUS CHOPi*, Vieillot.

*Agelaius chopi*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xxxiv. p. 537, (1819.)

*Icterus unicolor*, Licht. Verz. p. 19, (1823.)

*Icterus sulcirostris*, Spix. Av. Bras. i. p. 67, (1824.)

Spix Av. Bras. i. pl. 64. Hahn Voeg. pt. xvi. pl. 2.

Specimens obtained by Mr. John G. Bell, at Mazatlan, Mexico, have the bill larger and in general stature are rather more robust than in specimens labelled as from various parts of South America, but otherwise are quite identical. Easily identified in this group by the sharply lanceolate and acuminate form of the feathers of the head and the oblique grooves at the base of the lower

mandible. My impression at present is, that this bird is properly to be arranged here as a subgenus of *Agelaius*.

Numerous specimens in the Academy Museum. In general appearance and in the pointed feathers of the head this bird resembles *Leistes curaeus* (= *Curaeus aterrimus*) with which it has been sometimes confounded, though much smaller and not, in my opinion, belonging to the same genus.

4. *Agelasticus*.

(Genus *Agelasticus*, Cabanis, Mus. Hein, i. p. 188.)

8. *AGELAIUS THILIUS*, (Molina.)

*Turdus thilius*, Mol. Sagg. Stor. Nat. Chili, (1782.)

*Xanthornus chrysocarpus*, Vigors, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1832, p. 3.

*Thilius major*, Bonap. Compt. Rend. 1853, p. 833.

Gilliss, U. S. Astr. Exp. Chili, Birds, pl. 16.

Numerous specimens from Chili in the Academy and Smithsonian Institution. So far as I can see, this bird is an *Agelaius*, presenting only somewhat greater attenuation of form than in the more typical species, and in my judgment it is the type of a subgeneric group quite identical with *Neopsar*, Sclater. This species intimately resembles the next succeeding but is larger.

9. *AGELAIUS XANTHOCARPUS*, Bonaparte.

*Agelaius xanthocarpus*, Bonap. Consp. Av. i. p. 430, (1850.)

"*Icterus chilensis*, Kittlitz." Bonap. Compt. Rend. 1853, p. 834.

This is a black species with yellow shoulders, much resembling the preceding (*A. thilius*) and apparently to be distinguished mainly by its smaller size. It is scarcely to be recognized from the Prince Bonaparte's description in Consp. Av., as cited above, but is clearly indicated by the same distinguished Naturalist in Comp. Rend. 1853, p. 833. This bird seems to be constantly smaller than the preceding, with the bill disproportionately more slender, the wing shorter and the proportionate lengths of the quills different.

Specimens of this species in the Mus. Smiths. Inst., from Capt. Page's La Plata Expedition, were obtained at Buenos Ayres and Santa Fe, Argentine Republic.

(Genus *Neopsar*, Sclater, Cat. Am. Birds, p. 139.)

10. *AGELAIUS NIGERRIMUS*, (Osburn.)

*Icterus nigerrimus*, Osburn, Zoologist. 1859, p. 6662.

*Neopsar nigerrimus*, (Osburn,) Sclat. Cat. Am. B. p. 139.

An entirely black species, apparently of frequent occurrence in the Island of Jamaica, from whence numerous specimens have been received at the Smithsonian Institution. Specimens in the Academy Museum, also from Jamaica. Structurally I cannot see that this bird is anything else than an *Agelaius*, and of the same subgroup as the preceding. It is more nearly related to the species immediately succeeding, which is also entirely black, from which, however, it can readily be distinguished on examination, by its being rather smaller, the bill more slender and the tarsi shorter, but the most reliable character is the different color of the plumage at the base of the feathers. In the present bird the feathers are dark ashy or nearly black at their base, and in the next (*A. cyanopus*,) they are light ashy, abruptly tipped with black. The female in this bird is stated to be black, in which respect it seems to differ from the succeeding.

11. *AGELAIUS CYANOPUS*, Vieillot.

*Agelaius cyanopus*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xxiv. p. 552, (1819.)

This apparently little known species is in structure exceedingly like the species immediately preceding (*A. nigerrimus* = *Neopsar nigerrimus*) and the adult males, at least, of both being glossy black, the general resemblance also is very strong. In fact, I had always supposed the two to be identical until I had undertaken the present more extended examination, an impression which, though

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I have never printed, I may have expressed verbally and epistolatorially, and beg now to correct, both for myself and others contingently interested.

The males only of the two species are alike in color, the female of the present species being strictly as described by M. D'Orbigny in Guerin's Magazine, Zool. 1838, p. 5, and previously by Azara and Vieillot; reddish chestnut, with longitudinal central stripes of black on the back and dullish yellow on the under parts of the body. In the Jamaica species (*A. nigerrimus*) both sexes are stated to be black. The present bird is slightly the larger, with the bill rather the thicker and the tarsus longer, but the most decisive and reliable character is that in this species the entire plumage of the body above and below is *light ashy at the bases of the feathers*, easily seen in raising them, especially on the rump and lower part of the back. On those parts, in fact, the feathers are, almost throughout their length, light ashy, being only rather narrowly and abruptly tipped with deep black. In *A. nigerrimus* this is not the case, the feathers being, throughout, much darker and in fact nearly black, widely tipped with deep black. Both birds are strictly of the subgroup *Neopsar*.

This bird is accurately described by Azara, Apuntamientos, i. p. 313, (Walckenaer's French edition, iii. p. 190) whose description is copied by Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. xxxiv. p. 552. It is also sufficiently described by D'Orbigny, Guerin's Magazine, Zool. 1838, Syn. Av. p. 5. The sexes, as given somewhat provisionally by these authors, are so labelled in the fine collection made by Mr. Christopher J. Wood, while attached to Capt. Page's Expedition, which surveyed the Rio La Plata and Rio Parana, which collection is now in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. The female, and probably the young male, are entirely different from the male in colors, in which respect this species apparently differs in a singular manner from its near relative, *Agelaius* or *Neopsar nigerrimus*, numerous specimens of which, labelled as both males and females, are in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution, and are entirely black. One of M. D'Orbigny's specimens in the Academy Museum is probably that of a young male, but differing only from the female in having the black stripes of the under parts more numerous and the throat less conspicuously mottled with black.

This species seems to be of rather wide diffusion, though apparently but indifferently known to naturalists. Specimens in Academy Museum, labelled "Bolivia," from M. D'Orbigny's collection, and others received from Mr. John G. Bell of New York, in "Bogota" collections. Specimens in Capt. Page's La Plata collection are labelled, undoubtedly correctly, by Mr. Wood, "Paraguay."

The points of distinction between the two closely allied species here mentioned, and especially the infallible character, as I regard it, to be found in the difference of the colors at the bases of the feathers, I am happy to acknowledge were first pointed out to me by Miss Grace Anna Lewis, most favorably known, and deservedly so, as a lecturer and teacher of Ornithology and General Natural History. Miss Lewis is one of several accomplished ladies who have most diligently studied in the Library and Museum of this Academy during the present winter, and not only successfully, but have contributed also in the highest degree to the general agreeableness of the similar pursuits of their fellow students of the stronger sex.

#### 5. *Macroagelaius*.

#### 12. *AGELAIUS SUBALARIS*, (Boissoneau.)

*Quiscalus subalaris*, Boiss. Rev. Zool. 1840, p. 70.

Specimens in the Academy Museum labelled "Bogota." Though usually rated as a *Quiscalus*, this bird, in my opinion, is more properly to be regarded as an *Agelaius*, though differing from the typical subgroups in having a longer and more *Quiscalus*-like tail. It is not an uncommon bird in collections from the northern countries of South America.

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## II.—Genus LEISTES, Swainson.

(Genus Leistes, Swains. Zool., Jour. ii., p. 191.)

1. *Leistes*.

## 1. LEISTIS MILITARIS, (Linnæus.)

Emberiza militaris, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 178, (1758.)

Oriolus guianensis, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 162, (1766.)

Oriolus americanus, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 386, (1788.)

Xanthornus rubricollis, Hahn, Voegel, pt. v. (1819.)

Buff. Pl. Enl. 236, fig. 2. Edwards' Birds, pl. 82. Vieill. Gal. ii. pl. 88.  
Hahn, Voegel, pt. v., pl. 2.

Numerous specimens of this well known species are in the Academy Museum, labelled as from Brazil and Guiana, and in the Museum Smithsonian Institution from Trinidad.

## 2. LEISTES SUPERCILIARIS (Bonaparte.)

Tupialis superciliaris, Bonap., Consp. Av., i. p. 430, (1850.)

Resembles the preceding, but rather larger and easily distinguished by its conspicuous superciliary stripe of white. Specimens in the Academy Museum, labelled Cayenne, and in Smithsonian Museum from Buenos Ayres, and Ceará, Northern Brazil.

2. *Gymnomystax*.

(Genus Gymnomystax, Reichenbach.)

## 3. LEISTES MELANICTERUS, (Vieillot.)

Agelaius melanicterus, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xxxiv. p. 544, (1819.)

Icterus citrinus, Spix. Av. Bras. i. p. 69, (1824.)

Psarocolius gymnops, Wagl., Syst. Av., p. (not paged, 1827.)

Spix, Av. Bras., i. pl. 66.

Specimens in Academy Museum from Cayenne and Brazil.

3. *Xanthosomus*.

(Genus Xanthosomus, Cabanis, Mus. Hein. i. p. 189.)

## 4. LEISTES ICTEROCEPHALUS, (Linnæus.)

Oriolus icterocephalus, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 163, (1766.)

Edward's Birds, pl. 323. Hahn, Voegel. pt. v., pl. 6.

Numerous specimens in Academy Museum, from Guiana and Trinidad.

## 5. LEISTES FLAVUS, (Gmelin.)

Oriolus flavus, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 389, (1788.)

Psarocolius flaviceps, Wagler, Syst. Av., p. (not paged, 1827.)

Chrysomus xanthopygius, Swains. Cab. Cy. p. 345, (1838.)

Voy. Beagle, Birds pl. 45.

Specimens in Academy Museum from Brazil and other countries of South America. This bird presents some variations in size, but nothing of specific value in the specimens under examination.

4. *Pseudoleistes*.

(Genus Pseudoleistes, Sclat. Cat. Am. Birds, p. 137.)

## 6. LEISTES VIRIDIS, (Gmelin.)

Oriolus viridis, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 395, (1788.)

Agelaius Guirahuro, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xxxiv., p. 545, (1819.)

Leistes Suchii, Vigors, Zool. Jour. ii., p. 192, (1825.)

Xanthornus Gasquetii, Quoy et Gaim. Voy. Uranie, Ois. p. 110, (1824.)

Leistes Orioloides, Swains. Cab. Cy. p. 303, (1838.)

Leistes brevirostris, Swains. Cab. Cy. p. 304.

Zool. Jour. Supp. pl. 10. Voy. Uranie Ois. pl. 24. Pl. Enl. 236, fig. 1.

Specimens from Brazil in Museum Academy. This species is nearly allied to the next succeeding, but seems to be larger, and has the under parts clear yellow.

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7. *LEISTES VIRESCENS*, (Vieillot.)

*Agelaius virescens*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xxxiv., p. 543, (1819.)

*Icterus anticus*, Licht. Verz. Doubl. p. 19, (1823.)

*Leistes tenuirostris*, Swains. Cab. Cy. p. 304, (1838.)

"*Oriolus Draco*." Label in Massena collection.

Resembles the preceding, but is very probably quite distinct, being smaller, and has the bill more slender. In this species the yellow of the abdomen is restricted to a medial space, the sides being dark brownish olive, uniform with the upper parts of the body. Numerous specimens from Brazil in Academy Museum.

5. *Curaeus*.

(Genus *Curaeus*, Sclater, Cat. Am. Birds, p. 139.)

8. *LEISTES CURAEUS*, (Molina.)

*Turdus curaeus*, Mol. Sagg. Hist. Nat. Chili, 1782. (2d ed. p. 211, 1810.)

*Sturnus aterrimus*, Kittl. Mem. Acad. St. Petersburg. 1834, p. 467.

*Leistes niger*, Swains. Cab. Cy. p. 304, (1838.)

*Agelaius pustulatus*, Swains. Cab. Cy. p. 303?

Gillis U. S. Exp. to Chili, Birds pl. 15. Kittl. Mem. Acad. St. Petersburg. Voeg. pl. 2.

Specimens from Chili in the Academy Museum, and two specimens in the Massena collection labelled "St. Dominique," which if intended for the Island of St. Domingo or Hayti, is very probably erroneous. A large black species, with the feathers of the head rigid and pointed, well known as a bird of Chili and other countries of western South America. Resembles, especially in the pointed feathers of the head, *Agelaius chopi*, but is much larger. *Sturnus aterrimus*, Kittlitz, seems to be the young of this species.

III.—Genus *DOLICHONYX*, Swainson.

(Genus *Dolichonyx*, Swains. Zool. Jour. iii., p. 351.)

1. *Dolichonyx*.1. *DOLICHONYX ORYZIVORA*, (Linnæus.)

*Emberiza oryzivora*, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 311, (1766.)

*Icterus agripennis*, Bonap. Comp. List, p. 24, (1827.)

*Psarocolius caudacutus*, Wagl. Syst. Av. p. (not paged, 1827.)

Catesby Carolina, pl. 14. Edwards' Birds, pl. 291. Wils. Am. Orn. ii. pl. 12. Aud. B. of Am., pl. 54, Oct. ed. iv. pl. 211.

Numerous specimens in Academy Museum from various localities in Eastern North America, and two specimens labelled "Rio Negro." Specimens in Museum Smithsonian Institution from Cuba, Jamaica, and from Capt. Page's La Plata collection. The specimens from the "Rio Negro," in the Academy Museum seem to be rather large, but are not in adult plumage, and I find no reliable characters for distinction. Precisely similar specimens from the Rio Napo are in Mr. Lawrence's collection. This species is, assuredly, a great wanderer, but very probably the same in all localities on the continent of America.

2. *Agelaioides*.2. *DOLICHONYX BADIUS*, (Vieillot.)

*Agelaius badius*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xxxiv. p. 535, (1819.)

*Icterus fringillarius*, Spix, Av. Bras. i. p. 68, (1824.)

Spix, Av. Bras. i. pl. 65.

Tail black, or brownish black. Quills red, tipped with brownish black. Lores black, which color extends slightly under and behind the eye; entire plumage of the head and body dark cinereous, with an olivaceous tinge on the top of the head and on the back, much lighter and generally with a tinge of dull yellow on the under parts. Primaries and secondaries bright reddish, with their tips brownish black, (easily seen on the under surface of the wing.) ter-1866.]

tiaries and greater coverts of the wing brownish black, widely tipped and edged with ferrugineous red. Bill black, feet brown. Sexes very similar, though the female is less tinged with gray on the head and back.

Total length about 8 inches, wing  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Female smaller.

*Hab.*—Brazil, Paraguay, Buenos Ayres, Southern Brazil, exclusively?

Having before me two species which to some extent resemble each other, and both of which I suspect are known by the names cited above, I have given this short description of the bird, which is apparently that described by both Vieillot and Spix, and figured, rather unsuccessfully, by the latter. The present species seems to inhabit Southern and South-eastern Brazil, and adjacent countries, but the only authentic specimens to which I have access are in Capt. Page's collection, in Smithsonian Museum, and labelled "Buenos Ayres," which locality agrees sufficiently with those authors who have described this bird.

In this species the tail is black, usually with a tinge of brown, and much darker than the back, while in the species next described it is much lighter and exactly of the color sometimes called "hair brown," but little darker than the upper parts of the body. The quills are red on both webs for about two-thirds to three-fourths of their length, with the terminal one-third or one-fourth brownish black. The entire plumage is darker than in the species immediately succeeding. The description and figures of Spix, cited above, seem to be clearly from birds of this species, though perhaps not fully adult. Vieillot describes this species also. I do not regard it as possible that either this bird or the next succeeding is the young or female of any black species, as sometimes suspected by authors.

### 3. *DOLICHONYX FUSCIPENNIS*, nobis.

Tail light brown, quills light brown, primaries narrowly edged on their outer webs, secondaries and tertiaries widely edged on their outer webs, with bright ferrugineous red. Lores black, which color extends behind the eye, and becomes paler. Entire plumage of the head and body light reddish cinereous, with a tinge of grayish olivaceous on the upper parts, much lighter on the under parts, and strongly tinged with dull pale ochre yellowish. Greater coverts of the wings ferrugineous red, with paler edges, which is the color of the external edges of the wings, (but not of the quills, as in the preceding species.) Bill and feet brownish black.

Total length about 7 inches, wing  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , tail 3 inches. Female rather smaller.

*Hab.*—Ceará, N. E. Brazil. Specimens in Museum Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

The bird now described is clearly distinct from that immediately preceding, and is easily distinguished by its lighter and different colors generally, and especially by its light brown tail, and by its quills being light brown also, edged only with red. In the preceding the tail is black or brownish black, and the quills are red on both webs for more than two-thirds of their length, and brownish black at their ends or terminal one-fourth to one-third.

The only specimens that I have seen of this species are in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution, and are labelled as male and female, and are undoubtedly from Ceará, Northern Brazil. This bird and the immediately preceding *D. badius*, present some structural characters, which entitle them to be arranged with nearly equal propriety in either *Agelaius* or in *Dolichonyx*, but I think not in *Molothrus*.\*

\* *DOLICHONYX MELANCHOLICUS*, (LINNÆUS.)

*Oriolus melancholicus*, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 180, (1758.)

Edwards' Birds, pl. 85.

Judging from the figure and description of Edwards, I suspect that this is a third species of the same subgroup of *Dolichonyx* as *D. badius* and *D. fuscipennis*, (above described,) and at present unknown to naturalists. It is peculiar in having not only the sides of the head, but the throat clear black, which is not the case in either of the others just mentioned, but otherwise it resembles them. It is stated by Edwards to be from the "Spanish West Indies," which now properly means those islands that were Spanish in 1743.

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3. *Erythrapsar*.4. *DOLICHONYX FRONTALIS*, (Vieillot.)

*Agelaius frontalis*, Vieill., Nouv. Dict., xxxiv. p. 545, (1819.)

*Chrysomus et Xanthosomus frontalis*, Auct.

Gray, Gen. Birds, i. pl. 86.

This is a well known and apparently abundant species of the northern countries of South America, briefly and by no means sufficiently described by Vieillot as above, but very accurately and handsomely figured by G. R. Gray in his great work, "The Genera of Birds." The locality given by Vieillot is Cayenne, and on that account, in a greater degree than on any peculiar applicability of his description, I am induced to conclude that this is the species entitled to the name as above given. The description is short, but, in my opinion, can safely be assumed as intended for this bird.

Head above to near the occiput, and neck before, reddish chestnut or bay color, which extends and widens on the breast. All other parts of the plumage glossy black. Lores and sides of the head black, which color is restricted to a very narrow line over the eye. Bill and feet black. Total length about 7 inches.

*Hab.*—Cayenne; Ceará, Northern Brazil.

Numerous specimens of this species are in the Acad. Mus. and in Mus. Smiths. Inst. It differs from that immediately succeeding (*D. ruficapillus*,) in having the red or bay colors on the head, neck and breast in front much more extended and of a different color, reddish chestnut in the present bird, dark chestnut in the next succeeding species. The two species are very nearly of the same size. Both are, in my opinion, most properly to be arranged as a subgroup of the genus *Dolichonyx*.

5. *DOLICHONYX RUFICAPILLUS*, (Vieillot.)

*Agelaius ruficapillus*, Vieill., Nouv. Dict., xxxiv. p. 536, (1819.)

*Del Corona de canella*, Azara, Apuntamientos, i. p. 315, (1802.)

This species is described as from Paraguay, by Azara, whose description is copied by Vieillot as above, and is, in my opinion, distinct from that immediately preceding (*D. frontalis*,) though usually regarded as the same. The only specimens that I have seen are in Capt. Page's La Plata collection now in the Mus. Smiths., and are from Paraguay.

In this species the head above and neck before are dark chestnut, and on both parts that color is more restricted than in the preceding, but especially on the neck in the present bird, in which it is narrower and does not extend to the breast. All other parts glossy black, on the sides of the head the black space is wider over the eye than in the preceding. In a young bird, also in Page's collection and from the same locality, Paraguay, the chestnut color of the neck in front is only beginning to appear, but is the same dark chestnut as in the adult, and quite different in shade from that of the preceding bird.

Although I regard the present and immediately preceding species as different, yet if they were the same, the name here given would be entitled to adoption, being the first given by Vieillot, though usually cited erroneously by authors. In nearly all late works, when the two names *A. frontalis* and *A. ruficapillus* are given, the pages cited in Nouv. Dict. are transposed.

IV.—Genus *MOLOTHRUS*, Swainson.

(Genus *Molothrus*, Swains., Faun. Bor. Am., ii. p. 277.)

1. *Molothrus*.7. *MOLOTHRUS PECORIS*, (Gmelin.)

*Oriolus ater*, Bodd., Tab. Pl. Enl., p. 37, (1782.)

*Oriolus fuscus et minor*, Gm., Syst. Nat., i. pp. 393, 394, (1788.)

*Fringilla pecoris*, Gm., Syst. Nat., i. p. 910, (1788.)

*Icterus Emberizoides*, Daud., *Traite d'Orn.*, ii. p. 350, (1800.)

Buff., *Pl. Enl.* 606. Wilson, *Am. Orn.*, ii. pl. 18. Aud., *B. of Am.*, pl. 99. Oct. ed., iv. pl. 212.

One of the most common birds of North America, migrating in the winter to Mexico, Central America and probably into the northern countries of South America. Specimens are in the Museum of the Philada. Acad. from Mexico, and others labelled Central America and South America. The first name for this species is that of Boddart as cited, who applies it to the bird figured by Buffon, as above.

Total length 7 to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, wing  $4\frac{1}{4}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 inches.

2. *MOLOTHRUS OBSCURUS*, (Gmelin.)

*Sturnus obscurus*, Gm., *Syst. Nat.*, i. p. 804, (1788.)

*Sturnus junceti*, Lath., *Ind. Orn.*, i. p. 326, (1790.)

*Sturnus Novæ Hispaniæ*, Briss. *Orn.*, ii. p. 448.

Numerous specimens in the Smithsonian Museum, to which I ascribe this name, are from Mr. Xantus' collections at Colima and Manzanillo, Western Mexico, and from Mira Flores, Lower California. This species is distinct from the preceding, but much resembles it in colors and form also, having the same long wings and proportionate lengths of quills, the first quill being usually longest. It is smaller and has the bill much more slender; the wing is shorter and all other measurements less than those of the preceding well known species, except the tail, which is comparatively longer. In colors it is very nearly the same, but in form it is more slender and smaller, with the tail rather longer. One specimen from Lower California has the first quill shorter than the second, but otherwise is quite the same as those from Manzanillo.

Total length about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches, wing 4, tail  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 inches.

2. *Calliothrus*.

3. *MOLOTHRUS ÆNEUS*, (Wagler.)

*Psarocolius æneus*, Wagl., *Isis*, 1829, p. 728.

*Molothrus robustus*, Cab., *Mus. Hein.*, i. p. 193, (1851,) *Jour. Orn.*, 1861, p. 81.

Specimens in the Smithsonian Museum from Yucatan, Costa Rica, and various parts of Mexico, and it is evidently an abundant species. Those from Mazatlan and Manzanillo seem to have the bill larger than others, and in some specimens this is so much the case as to suggest a doubt of specific identity.

This bird presents such very considerable changes in the shades and lusters of its plumage, that it might readily be mistaken for several species. The adult has the entire plumage of the head and body of the rich silky metallic yellowish-green, which characterizes the species, the upper and under tail coverts, wings and tail being lustrous green and blue. Singularly enough, in younger specimens the back and a large space on the abdomen are fine deep lustrous blue and violet, having so much the appearance of adult plumage, that series of specimens are necessary to determine their really intermediate character. Nearly all specimens brought in collections are of this intermediate description, and in a younger plumage there is a trace of blue, violet and purple lustre on nearly the entire plumage. The youngest in the large collection now under examination are dull brown, with a faint trace of greenish lustre on the wings and tail only, and of blue on the back. Forty-two specimens are now before me, twenty-four of which are from the Smithsonian collections, others are from the fine collection of my friend Mr. Lawrence, of New York, and in the Academy Museum. The Academy specimens are from Panama, (Mr. J. G. Bell's,) Nicaragua, Xalapa, Mazatlan, (Dr. Gambel's,) and various specimens received from Europe, labelled "Mexico."

4. *MOLOTHRUS ARMENTI*, Cabanis.

*Molothrus Armenti*, Cab., *Mus. Hein.*, i. p. 192, (1851,) *Jour. Orn.*, 1861, p. 82.

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One specimen in adult plumage kindly lent to me for examination with other interesting birds of this group, by my friend Mr. Lawrence, of New York. Another specimen, which I suppose to be this species, is in quite young plumage, and was received at the Academy in a collection from Demarara. The latter appears to be younger than those described by Dr. Cabanis in Mus. Hein., as above.

This species can only be identified from Dr. Cabanis' note in Jour. Orn., 1861, p. 82, the previous descriptions by him being only applicable to young plumages. It resembles and is allied to the preceding, but is smaller, and the lustre of the head and body is quite different, being silky *yellowish brown*, not *green* as in *M. xeneus*. This brown lustre is darker than in the head of *M. pectoris*, but if restricted to the head might readily suggest a comparison with that species, as is done by Dr. Cabanis in Mus. Hein., as above. It is a beautiful species.

Adult. Smaller than *M. xeneus*, bill more slender, wing with the third quill slightly longest, first shorter, tail rather short. Entire plumage black, the head and body with a rich silky yellowish-brown lustre; upper and under tail coverts, wings and tail with rich purplish blue and green lustre, the blue prevailing on the tail coverts and shorter quills. Bill black, feet brownish black.

Total length about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, wing 4, tail  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

*Hab.*—Savanilla, New Grenada. Collection of Mr. George N. Lawrence, New York.

Young? Entire plumage dull brown, lighter on the under parts, and with a faint trace of green on the wings and tail, and blue on the back. First quill shorter than the third, and about equal to the fourth. Total length about 6 inches.

*Hab.*—Demarara. Mus. Acad., Philada.

Mr. Lawrence's specimen is the only adult of this species that I have seen, and, so far as I know, the only adult specimen known in any collection. It is a species with very fine rich lustre and perhaps the most handsome bird of this group.

### 3. *Cyanothrus*.

#### 5. *MOLOTHRUS BONARIENSIS*, (Gmelin.)

*Tanagra bonariensis*, Gm., Syst. Nat., i. p. 898, (1788.)

Buff., Pl. Enl. 710. "Le Tangavio de Buenos Ayres," Buffon.

Specimens, undoubtedly of the bird figured and named as above, are in the Smithsonian Museum, from the same locality as that given by Buffon, (Buenos Ayres,) and are peculiarly valuable in the recognition of this species. They were obtained by the expedition under Capt. T. J. Page, U. S. Navy, which surveyed the Rivers La Plata and Parana, and are quite reliable in point of locality.

This bird is rather the smallest of four species nearly allied and resembling each other, which I am about to enumerate. My opinion is that there are at least this number of species of these nearly related birds, and I suspect that there are more of which I have only seen immature specimens.

Bill in adult, moderate or rather slender, with the upper mandible narrower than the under viewed laterally, and slightly curved; wing long, second quill longest; tail moderate or rather short, composed of wide feathers, slightly rounded at the end.

Plumage black, the entire upper and under parts of head and body having a uniform purple violet lustre, differing in shade in different specimens, but always uniform above and below. Shoulders also with purple lustre. Wings and tail with green lustre, not very brilliant, but easily distinguished; under tail coverts also with green lustre. In fine adult specimens there is a tinge of purple lustre on the wing coverts and on the shortest quills. Bill and feet black.

Total length about 8 inches, wing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{3}{4}$ , tail  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

*Hab.*—Southern and southeastern South America, Buenos Ayres, Rio Parana 1866.]

na, Paraguay, Brazil. Spec. in Smithsonian Museum, Washington, and Acad. Mus., Philada.

About the size of, but scarcely recognizable from Buffon's figure. The species is, however, entirely respectable, and entitled, by all the laws of ornithological genealogy, to bear the name here given. A female or young male from Buenos Ayres, in Capt. Page's La Plata collection, is nearly uniform dark grayish fuscous, darker and nearly black on the back, and lighter on the under parts of the body. Quills and wing coverts edged very distinctly with pale gray, nearly white on the edges of the quills. Bill and feet black.

6. *MOLOTHRUS DISCOLOR*, (Vieillot.)

*Passerina discolor*, Vieill., Ency. Meth., iii. p. 939, (1823.)

*Molothrus atronitens*, Cab., Schombg. Guiana, iii. p. 682, (1848.)

Specimens from the Island of Trinidad, and one from Cuba, in the Academy Museum, seem to be the bird described by both the authors cited above. These specimens are undoubtedly authentic, the former having been collected under the direction of Mr. J. G. Bell, of New York, in Trinidad, and most kindly furnished by him for examination, and the specimen from Cuba, collected by the late Mr. R. C. Taylor of this Academy, in the northern part of that Island, (Port Gibara, province of Holguin.)

This bird is exceedingly like the preceding, though it is rather larger and has especially large legs and feet. The color and lustres are nearly the same, though the present bird seems always to have a large space on the lower abdomen, green, uniform with the under tail coverts. My opinion is that it is a distinct species, though requiring further investigation. I have never seen an authentic female specimen.

Resembling *M. bonariensis*, but larger. Bill rather long, upper mandible slightly curved, wing long, second quill longest, tail moderate, rounded, feet strong. Entire plumage black, the head and body above and below with an uniform purple violet lustre, except on the lower abdomen or ventral region and the under tail coverts, which have green lustre. Shoulders with purple lustre. Wings and tail with green lustre not very strong, but very similar to that of same parts in *M. bonariensis*.

Total length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 inches, wing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Hab.*—Trinidad, Cuba, Northern South America? Spec. in Mus. Acad., Philada.

Scarcely to be distinguished from *M. bonariensis*, but is larger in all its measurements, and especially in total length and in the bill and feet. Possibly to be regarded as a variety of the same species. This bird has not previously been noticed under any name, to my knowledge, from the island of Cuba.

7. *MOLOTHRUS PURPURASCENS* (Hahn).

*Xanthornus purpurascens*, Hahn, Voeg. As. Af., &c., pt. v. pl. 4, 1819.

Hahn, Voeg. As. Afr., &c., pt. v. pl. 4.

Specimens from Callao, Peru, collected by the late Dr. Gambel, others labelled as from Callao and Lima, and others labelled "Mexico" in Acad. Museum. This is a species about the size of the two preceding, but readily distinguished from them by its large strong bill, and the golden yellowish-purple lustre of the under parts of the body. It is a clearly distinct species, and appears to be the bird figured by Hahn, as above cited, whose figure is rather too short, but in form generally, and especially the thick strong bill, and the color of the upper parts, is a fair representation. The immature plumage is entirely different from that of either of the preceding.

Rather larger than *M. bonariensis*, and about the size of *M. discolor*, and easily distinguished by its stronger bill and the golden purple lustre of the plumage of the under parts of the body. Bill rather long, strong upper mandible slightly curved, wing long, with the third quill longest, tail moderate, not so much rounded as in the preceding species.

Entire plumage black, head above and upper parts of body with a violet

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purple lustre, under parts with a rich *golden purple lustre*, most conspicuous on the breast and neck in front; under tail coverts with green lustre. Shoulders purple, wings and tail with green lustre.

Total length about 8 to 8½ inches, wing 4½ to 4¾, tail 3½ to 3¾ inches.

Young. General colors light yellowish and dull brown, much like young *Plocei* or *Xanthorni*. Upper parts dull light brown, plumage edged with dull yellow, under parts pale dull yellow, with longitudinal stripes of pale brown. Bill very strong.

*Hab.*—Western South America, Peru, Mexico? Spec. in Mus. Acad., Philadelphia. Probably peculiar to the countries of Western South America, and an entirely respectable species.

8. *MOLOTHRUS SERICEUS* (Swainson).

*Scolecophagus sericeus*, Swains. Cat. Cy., p. 301, (1838).

*Molothrus brevirostris*, Swains. Cat. Cy., p. 305, (1838)?

*Icterus sericeus*, Licht. Verz. Doubl., p. 19, (1823)?

Specimens from Bahia, from which locality this bird is commonly brought, and is apparently the common species of Eastern South America. Rather larger than, but difficult to distinguish from, the species immediately preceding, (*M. purpurascens*), and has the same golden purple lustre on the plumage of the under parts of the body. The bill is straighter, and not so strong, and the second and third quills nearly equal.

Though commonly brought from Bahia in collections, I have not a sufficient number of specimens in adult plumage for a satisfactory examination of this bird, though I am inclined to the opinion that it is not quite identical with either of the preceding. Specimens that I regard as *M. brevirostris* appear to me to be the same as others also from Bahia, which I regard as *M. sericeus*, probably differing only in age. This seems to be rather the largest species of this group, though, perhaps, little larger than *M. zeneus* or *M. purpurascens*, and, though my opinion is favorable, I am under the necessity of regarding it as a species of but imperfect respectability. It is certainly, I think, the bird described by Swainson, as above, and probably also by Lichtenstein under the same name.

4. *Cyrtotes*.

(Genus *Cyrtotes*, Reichenbach.)

9. *MOLOTHRUS MAXILLARIS*, (D'Orbigny et Lafresnaye).

*Icterus maxillaris*, D'Orb. et Lafres. Mag. Zool., 1838, p. 6.

D'Orb. Voy. Am. Mer. Ois., pl. 52, fig. 3.

Two specimens from M. D'Orbigny's collection are in the Academy Museum. This curious bird, in color and general characters, intimately resembles the last four species above given, but also much resembles the birds of the group *Lamprosar*. Of the species here given as *Molothri*, it approaches most closely *M. bonariensis* and *M. discolor*, and has the *lustres* of the plumage very similar, but is larger than either, and, in fact, is rather larger and with longer wings than either of the preceding species in this memoir. It is, in my judgment, entirely a peculiar bird, and described, entirely judiciously, by the distinguished authors above cited as a distinct species.

The peculiar character of this bird is the singular lobe on the cutting edge of the upper mandible, as stated by M. D'Orbigny, near the point, and which, if met with in a single specimen, might readily be suspected of being a deformity, as intimated by the greatest of European Ornithologists now living: "*rostro deformi*?" This suspicion and general view of the case is, however, to me rendered less cogent by the fact that I have before me *two* of M. D'Orbigny's specimens, and they are like each other with much exactness! In both the adult specimens, this curious lobe is more strongly developed than as represented in M. D'Orbigny's figure above cited.

This bird is accurately described by M. D'Orbigny, as above cited, and also 1866.]

in Voy. Am. Mer. Ois., p. 367. It is with doubt that I arrange this bird as representing a subgroup, and am not without a suspicion that it is more properly to be placed in the group *Lamprosar*. The only specimens that I have seen are those of M. D'Orbigny, above alluded to, and this species seems to be little known to naturalists.

5. *Lamprosar*.

(Genus *Lamprosar*, Cabanis, Schombg. Guiana, iii. p. 682.)

10. *MOLOTHRUS TANAGRINUS*, (Spix).

*Icterus tanagrinus*, Spix, Av. Bras., i. p. 67, (1824).

*Icterus violaceus*, De Wied, Beitr. Naturg. Bras., iii. p. 1212, (1831).

Spix, Av. Bras., i. pl. 64, fig. 1.

Total length about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, wing 4, tail 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Entire plumage black, with a nearly uniform purplish blue lustre on the head and body, above and below, wings and tail with a green lustre. Bill and feet black.

The smallest of several species of this genus, and brought abundantly in collections from Brazil. In the various specimens now before me, this bird presents a uniform purplish blue lustre, by which it can be easily distinguished from either of the two species immediately succeeding. It has not quite the fine purple and violet lustre of either of them. Numerous specimens in the Academy Museum.

11. *MOLOTHRUS GUIANENSIS*, (Cabanis).

*Lamprosar guianensis*, Cab. Schombg. Guiana, iii. p. 682, (1848).

Total length about 8 inches, wing  $3\frac{3}{4}$  to 4, tail  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Rather larger than the preceding, with the wing rather shorter, comparatively, and third quill slightly longest. In the specimens before me, this species is easily distinguished from the preceding by the violet purple lustre of the head and of the upper and under parts of the body. Wings and tail with greenish lustre, darker than in the preceding. In colors, this species resembles the next succeeding, though scarcely more than half the size. It appears to be from Northern South America.

Specimens of this species are in the Academy Museum, and in the collection of that distinguished and excellent Ornithologist, Mr. George N. Lawrence, of New York.

12. *MOLOTHRUS CABANISII*, nobis.

*Lamprosar dives*, Cab. Mus. Hein., p. 194 ? (nec Bonap.)

Total length about 10 inches, wing 5 to  $5\frac{1}{4}$ , tail  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, bill strong, though of the same general form as in both the preceding. Entire plumage black, head and body, above and below, with a fine violet purple lustre, and having a golden tinge on the under parts. Wings and tail with a dark green lustre, bill and feet black, claws rather long and slender, but very sharp.

Easily distinguished from the two preceding species by its much larger size, and, in the specimens now at my disposal, the plumage is the most lustrous, the golden violet purple in the present bird being especially a distinguishable feature. I am not confident that this is the bird alluded to by Dr. Cabanis as *Lamprosar dives*, as above cited, but regard it as probable. It is smaller than, and generically distinct from the bird which seems to be *L. dives*, Bonap. Comp. Av. i. p. 425, now well known as a bird of Mexico and Central America, (and which I regard as the same as *Quiscalus sumichrasti*, De Saussure).

One specimen in the Acad. Mus. is from Guiana, and another in the collection of my friend Mr. Lawrence, is from Santa Martha, New Grenada; others in Acad. Mus. are without indication of locality, though the species is singularly uniform in characters in all the specimens now under examination. To this handsome species I have taken the liberty of applying the name of my excellent friend and correspondent, Dr. Cabanis, of Berlin, not so much

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because I suspect that this is the bird alluded to by him, as to avail myself of an opportunity to express my high appreciation of his great merits and acquirements as an Ornithologist.

13. *MOLOTHRUS RUFO-AXILLARIS*, nobis.

With a part of the axillary feathers clear reddish chestnut color.

Entire plumage black, head and body, above and below, with a bluish purple lustre, wings and tail with an obscure greenish lustre or nearly plain black. Bill and feet black.

Total length about  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches, wing  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Hab.*—Buenos Ayres. Spec. in Smithsonian Mus., Washington.

One specimen only of this curious bird is in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, and seems clearly to belong to this group, though not presenting such highly lustrous plumage as either of the preceding. It is apparently quite adult, and easily recognized by the reddish chestnut-colored axillary feathers, to be seen at once by raising the wing at the shoulder.

Though having all the characters of an adult bird, the plumage in this specimen has but slight lustre, inclining to bluish purple on the head and body, and greenish on the wings and tail. The only specimen that I have seen is in the fine collection made by Mr. Christopher J. Wood, while attached to Capt. T. J. Page's La Plata Expedition, which is now in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.\*

V.—Genus *STURNELLA*, Vieillot.

(Genus *Sturnella*, Vieill. Analyse p. 34.)

1. *Sturnella*.

1. *STURNELLA LUDOVICIANA*, (Linnaeus.)

*Sturnus ludovicianus*, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 290, (1766.)

*Alauda magna*, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 167, (1758.)

*Cacicus alaudarius*, Daud. Tr. D'Orn. ii. p. 325, (1800.)

*Sturnella collaris*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xxxii. p. 203, (1819.)

Catesby, Carolina, pl. 33. Buff. pl. Enl. 256. Vieill. Gal. Ois. ii. pl. 90.

Wilson Am. Orn. iii. pl. 191. Aud. B. of Am. pl. 136. Oct. ed. iv. pl. 223.

An abundant bird of Eastern North America, carefully described by the authors cited above, and by Prof. Baird in Birds of N. A. p. 535, and accurately figured as above given. The specific name "*magna*," has undoubted priority for this species, and I only object to it and do not use it at present on account of its singular inappropriateness to this bird as a species of the genus *Sturnella* or Little Stare. *Sturnella magna*, or *Great Little Stare*, strikes me as approaching absurdity, if that is possible, or any fault in ornithological nomenclature! I will in no wise molest scientific persons whose tastes may be different in this matter, however, and so promise.

This bird is nearly related to all of the next four species of this genus, equally in structure and in colors, and it would be difficult to describe by positive characters either species of this group, so as to insure recognition absolutely, or without comparative characters being given. All the species can be identified from the excellent descriptions in Ibis, 1861, p. 179, by Dr. Sclater of London, and the best descriptions of the two species of the United States are by Prof. Baird in Birds of N. A. p. 535. No other genus or sub-genus of this family presents so many species of such uniformity of structure and similarity of colors, and there are, assuredly, few such in the entire kingdom of birds.

2. *STURNELLA NEGLECTA*, Audubon.

*Sturnella neglecta*, Aud. B. of Am. Oct. ed. vii. p. 339, (1844.)

Aud. B. of Am. Oct. ed. vii. pl. 489.

An abundant bird of Western and Central North America. Generally paler

\* Lamprosar Warczewicz, Cab. Jour. Orn., 1861, p. 83, may be another species of this group. 1866.]

colored than the preceding, and with the transverse markings of the upper parts narrower, and, as pointed out by Prof. Baird, (B. of N. A. p. 538), the yellow of the throat seems generally to extend around under the eye and at the base of the under mandible in this bird more than in *S. ludoviciana*. The two species are about the same size.

Numerous specimens in the Academy Museum and in the Museum Smithsonian Institution. In the central regions of North America it is possible that a hybrid race between the two species may be produced, to be referred with about equal propriety to either. Usually, and having some degree of experience with these two species, it is not difficult to distinguish them at sight, though such consummation to be surely brought about, would require elaborate descriptions in words.

3. *STURNELLA HIPPOCREPIS*, Wagler.

*Sturnella hippocrepis*, Wagl. Isis, 1832, p. 281.

Smaller than either of the preceding, and having the pectoral black collar much more narrow. This species is very nearly related to the next succeeding (*S. mexicana*), and can scarcely be distinguished from it by any characters which seem to be reliable. It is, however, in my opinion, clearly distinct from *S. ludoviciana* and *S. neglecta*, and all the characters are present in the specimens before me, which are stated with his usual great clearness and accuracy by Mr. Lawrence, in an interesting memoir on the birds of Cuba, in Annals N. Y. Lyceum, vii. p. 266. In the present species the tertiaries are nearly or quite equal in length to the primaries, while in *S. ludoviciana* they are much shorter, which character is especially stated by Mr. Lawrence and seems to be quite correct.

Numerous specimens from Cuba are in the Museum Smithsonian Institution, and this bird seems to be peculiar to that island. The peculiarities pointed out by Mr. Lawrence stand good in all specimens of this bird now under examination.

4. *STURNELLA MEXICANA* ScLATER.

*Sturnella mexicana*, ScL. Ibis, 1861, p. 79.

Very nearly related to the preceding, (*S. hippocrepis*), if distinct, and I give it, at present, as a species provisionally only. Smaller than *S. ludoviciana* and *S. neglecta*, but perhaps rather more closely resembling the latter in colors. Pectoral black collar narrow. The colors of the upper parts seem to be less clearly defined, and of a slightly different style and pattern from the preceding, and it may bear about the same relation to that species (*S. hippocrepis*) that *S. neglecta* does to *S. ludoviciana*. Such relation I hold to be rather probable from the specimens now at hand.

Specimens from Mexico in Academy Museum, and in Museum Smithsonian Institution from Mexico and Guatemala.

5. *STURNELLA MERIDIONALIS*, ScLATER.

*Sturnella meridionalis*, ScL. Ibis, 1861, p. 79.

Quite distinct, in my opinion, from either of the preceding. Fully as large, apparently, as *S. ludoviciana*, with the tarsus slightly longer, and larger toes and claws, bill longer and more pointed. Black pectoral collar narrow as in *S. hippocrepis* and *S. mexicana*, but with tertiaries short as in *S. ludoviciana*.

One specimen from Brazil, in Museum Smithsonian, and others of doubtful locality, but South American, in Museum Academy. This species seems to be the peculiar South American form, and is apparently rather the largest bird of this closely allied group. Its characters are carefully and accurately stated by Dr. ScLATER of London, as above cited, though the species seems to be little known to ornithologists.

2. *Trupialis*.

(Genus *Trupialis*, Bonap. Consp. Av. i. p. 429.)

6. *STURNELLA MILITARIS*, (Linnæus.)

*Sturnus militaris*, Linn. Mant. p. 527, (1771.)

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Well known as a bird of Chili and other countries of Western South America. In this species the under wing coverts are white, and the fine scarlet of the throat and breast extends over the abdomen.

Numerous specimens in the Academy Museum, and in Museum Smithsonian Institution.

7. *STURNELLA LOYCA*, (Molina.)

*Sturnus loyca*, Mol., Dizz. Stor. Nat. Chili, (1782,) 2d ed. p. 212, (1810.)

*Sturnella bellicosa*, De Filippi.

*Pezites brevirostris*, Cab., Mus. Hein., p. 191, (1850.)

*Leistes albipes*, Philip. et Landb. Trosch. Archiv., 1863, p. 128?

This is apparently a smaller bird than the preceding, with a shorter and thicker bill, and the scarlet of the under parts is restricted to the throat, neck and breast, not extending on the abdomen as in the preceding. One fine apparently adult specimen now before me has the *tibiæ* clear white on their inner surfaces, mottled with black on their outer, in which plumage it seems to be *Leistes albipes*, Philip. et Landb., as above cited. The under wing coverts are white, as in the preceding.

The synonymy of this species I find to be difficult, but it is not improbable that it was first described by Dr. Cabanis as above cited, authors to the contrary notwithstanding. Specimens in Mus. Acad.

8. *STURNELLA DE FILIPPPI*, (Bonaparte.)

*Trupialis defilippii*, Bonap. Consp. Av. i. p. 429 (1850.)

Easily distinguished from either of the two preceding by its black under wing coverts. Specimens from Brazil in Museum Academy.

3. *Amblyramphus*.

(Genus *Amblyramphus*, Leach, Zool. Misc. p. 81, 1815.)

9. *STURNELLA HOLOSERICEA*, (Scopoli.)

*Xanthornus holosericeus*, Scop. Flor. et Faun. Insub. p. 88, (1786.)

*Oriolus ruber*, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 388, (1788.)

*Amblyramphus bicolor*, Leach, Zool. Misc. i. p. 82, (1815.)

*Sturnus pyrrocephalus*, Licht. Verz. Doubl. p. 18, (1823.)

*Sturnella rubra*, Vieill. Ency. Meth. ii. p. 635, (1823.)

*Leistes erythrocephalus*, Swains. Cab. Cy. Birds, ii. p. 275, (1837.)

Leach. Zool. Misc., i. pl. 36.

Numerous specimens of this apparently common species are in the Academy Museum from Brazil. Easily recognized when adult, by its brilliant scarlet head, and *tibiæ* and black body. The young is nearly uniform dull black, the scarlet generally first appearing on the throat and forehead.

This species ends the subfamily *Agelaiinae*, but I am not quite confident that the genera or subgenera *Creadion*, Vieillot, and *Amblycercus*, Cabanis, do not belong here. Such may be the case also with *Hypopyrrhus*, Bonaparte. At present, however, my impression is, that all of these have greater affinities in other groups of the family *Icteridæ*.

**A Critical Review of the Family PROCELLARIIDÆ:—Part III; embracing the FULMAREÆ.**

BY ELLIOTT COUES, A. M., M. D.

[Continued directly from page 144 of these Proceedings for 1864.\*]

The *Fulmareæ*, as I would define them, form a group of the *Procellariæ* represented as far as is now known by only three genera. These are *Fulmarus*, *Thalasseica* and *Ossiifraga*; all closely allied in general form and propor-

\* The writer's protracted residence in Arizona, where books and specimens were alike unobtainable, has unavoidably delayed until now the continuation of the series of papers begun in 1864. Efforts will now be made to finish the subject.